

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Meningococcal disease, an acute bacterial disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*, is most commonly manifested as meningitis, but it is also reportable if confirmed in other normally sterile sites. The disease is characterized by a sudden onset of fever, intense headache, stiff neck, nausea and vomiting, and often a petechial rash. Delirium and coma often appear and fulminant cases may exhibit sudden prostration, ecchymoses and shock. With early diagnosis and therapy the case fatality rate is between 5% and 15%. Transmission of the organism is from person to person through infected droplets of discharges from the nose and throat, more often from infected carriers than from cases.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

?? Isolation of *Neisseria meningitidis* from a normally sterile site (such as blood, CSF, or less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid).

Case Classification

Confirmed: A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

Probable: A case with a positive antigen test in CSF or clinical purpura fulminans in the absence of a positive blood culture.

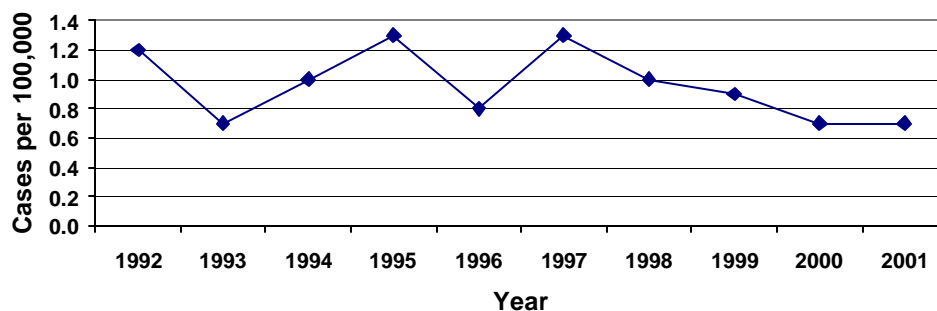
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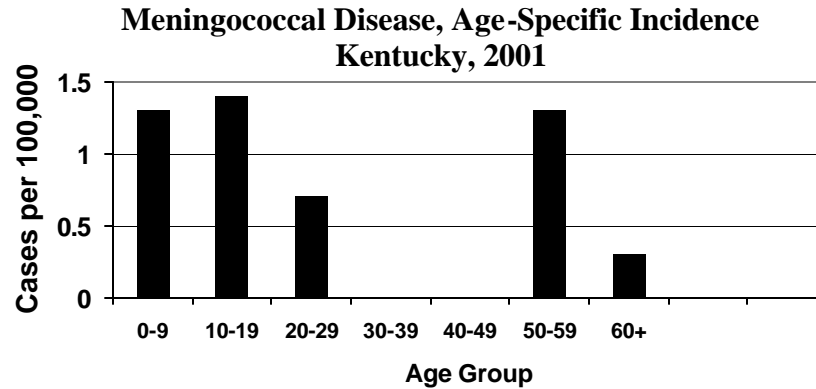
Positive antigen test results alone from urine or serum samples are unreliable for diagnosing Meningococcal disease.

Epidemiology

Kentucky 2001	Rate per 100,000	Cases by Gender	Rate by 100,000
Cases 27	0.7	Female 13	0.6
		Male 14	0.7
U.S. Rate (2000)	0.83		

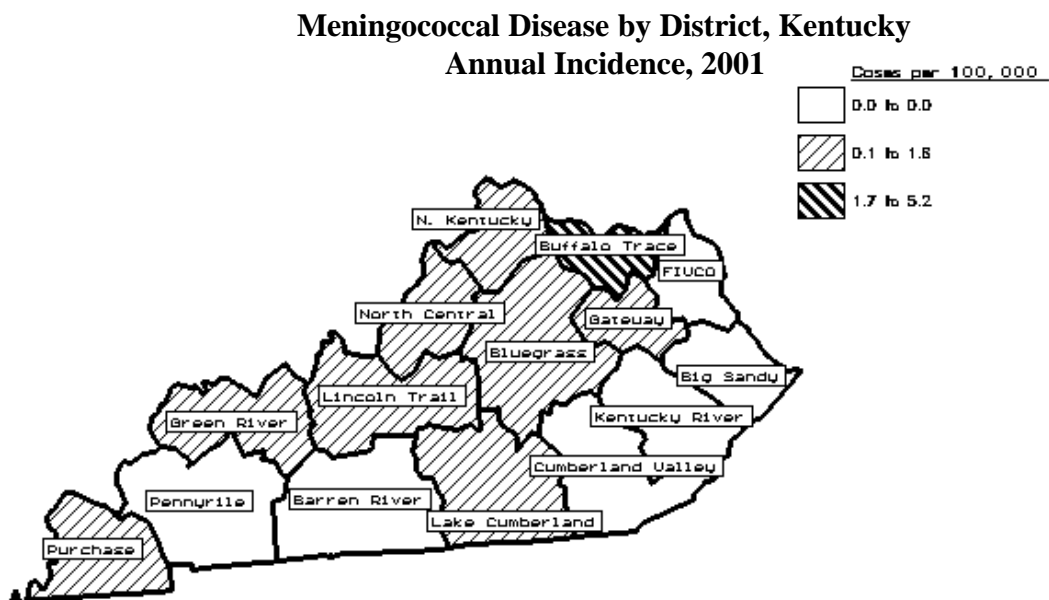
**Meningococcal Disease Incidence, Kentucky
1992-2001**





The highest incidence was in the 10-19 year age group, closely followed by the 0-9 year age group. In the 0-9 year age group all 7 cases were 5 years or younger, with 5 cases being 9 months or younger in age.

Serogroups were reported for 16 of the cases; Group A - 2 cases, Group B - 5 cases and Group C - 9 cases.



Districts Reporting Cases in 2001	Cases	Rate per 100,000
Purchase District	1	0.5
Green River District	1	0.5
Lincoln Trail District	4	1.6
North Central District	8	0.9
Northern Kentucky District	1	0.3
Buffalo Trace District	3	5.1
Gateway District	1	1.3
Lake Cumberland District	2	1.0
Bluegrass District	6	0.9